

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Forest Service National Technology & Development Program

T&D Tech Tips

Water System Operator Training Available on AgLearn

Kathleen Snodgrass, Project Leader

The Forest Service has hundreds of small drinking water systems serving recreation and administration sites. A certified water system operator must operate or supervise all public water systems. Certified operators must pass a test that proves they understand how to properly operate a drinking water system. Most people who operate Forest Service drinking water systems are not certified operators. In fact, most of them have many duties, and operating a water system (figure 1) only takes a small portion of their time. They are not specialists, but they must still understand the requirements and practicalities of operating their water system. It is difficult to find training to ensure that these operators understand all of their responsibilities.

A new AgLearn training course meets this need. Each operator who completes the class and passes the test will understand:

- Which laws and regulations apply to Forest Service drinking water systems
- Water system classifications and term definitions
- Their scope of employment
- Their responsibilities as an operator of a Forest Service drinking water system, including:
 - How to operate the water system
 - How to sample water and what tests are required
 - Requirements for recordkeeping
 - Requirements for notifying water system users of problems with the water
 - How to locate important information
 - Who can answer questions about water systems

Highlights

- Forest Service drinking water systems must provide safe drinking water for employees and visitors.
- All Forest Service water system operators must understand the requirements and practicalities of operating their water systems.
- A new course about operating water systems is available on AgLearn. Operators who complete the course and pass the test will understand all the responsibilities of operating a public water system.



Figure 1—This drinking water system control house and storage tank are located at the Blanchard Caverns Visitor Center on the Ozark National Forest of the Southern Region.



The course is comprehensive, but uses plain language so that people who are not familiar with water system jargon can easily understand the material. It is particularly well suited for educating recreation technicians or others who are responsible for operating seasonal and recreational water systems, but is also a good refresher course for all water system operators. There is no time limit for completing the course. Users can even exit the course and return at a later time to complete it.

To access this training, sign into AgLearn and click “Browse” under the “Search Catalog” box in the right column of the “Home” page. Enter “FS-National-7420-200” in the “Search” box and press “Go.” The title of the course is “7420 FS National Small Water Systems Operator Training.”

This course is based on live training conducted by the Pacific Northwest Region. Forest Service employees Jessica Baca, Karen Bower, Cory Brunsting, Julie Creed, Ernesto De La Riva, Mike Diemert, Ophelia Goatson-James, Jim Grubb (retired), Satgur Klar (retired), Jeff Mitchell, Matt Philbrook, Greg Porter, Maria Sandberg, Russell Sutton, Belinda Walker, Amanda Warner Thorpe, and Beverly Young (retired) helped to develop the course.

About the Author

Kathleen Snodgrass joined the Missoula Technology and Development Center as a project leader in 2001. She began her career with the Forest Service at the Nez Perce National Forest, working in facilities, landscape architecture, land line, and general engineering before serving as the facilities architect for 7 years. She also spent 10 years working in highway design and construction with the Idaho Division of Highways after graduating from Washington State University in 1974 with a bachelor's of science degree in architectural studies.

Library Card

Snodgrass, Kathleen. 2015. Water system operator training available on AgLearn. Tech Tip. 1671–2308–MTDC, Missoula, MT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Missoula Technology and Development Center. 2 p.

Forest Service drinking water systems must provide safe drinking water for employees and visitors. All Forest Service water system operators must understand the requirements and practicalities of operating their water systems. This AgLearn training is designed to assure that water system operators who take and pass the course will understand the requirements and practicalities of operating their water systems.

Keywords: backflow, classification, coliform, community, cross connection, disinfection, drinking, hauled, inorganic, monitoring, nitrate, nitrite, operations, operator, organic, potable, public, residual, sampling, sanitary, testing, transient, water



Order additional single copies of this document from:

USDA Forest Service
Missoula Technology and Development Center
5785 Hwy. 10 West
Missoula, MT 59808–9361
Phone: 406–329–3978
Fax: 406–329–3719
Email: wo_mtdc_pubs@fs.fed.us

Contact MTDC for additional technical information:

Phone: 406–329–3900
Fax: 406–329–3719

Find electronic copies of National Technology and Development documents on the Internet at:

Search T&D <<http://www.fs.fed.us/eng/pubs>>

Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management employees can search National Technology and Development documents, CDs, DVDs, and videos on their internal computer networks at:

Search MTDC <<http://fsweb.mtdc.wo.fs.fed.us/search/>>
Search SDTDC <<http://fsweb.sdtc.wo.fs.fed.us/>>

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

The Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), has developed this information for the guidance of its employees, its contractors, and its cooperating Federal and State agencies. The Forest Service assumes no responsibility for the interpretation or use of this information by anyone except its own employees. The use of trade, firm, or corporation names is for the information and convenience of the reader. Such use does not constitute an official endorsement or approval of any product or service to the exclusion of others that may be suitable.